

Subject: P.J.'s frie... in Riga's Journals and his correspondence with P.J.

GRANOVSKIS Boris - born apr. 1914 in Kuldiga; now residing in Riga's Journals, Asari, Talivalsa iela 16 (house of his mother i.l.).

Formerly the **GRANOVSKIS** were a well-off family in Kuldiga. B.G.'s father Janis (?) was for many years the secretary of the Chief of Kuldiga District (Kuldigas apriekšpriekšnieks - in Ltv.) - already before the Republic of Latvia was founded; remained in this post through all changes. Old **GRANOVSKIS** owned also several houses in Kuldiga and was a much respected person there; he as well as his wife, i.e. B.G.'s mother, both were Latvians; the latter was a housewife. They had their own car and were considered as one of the upper-class family in Kuldiga.

In June, 1941, both **GRANOVSKIS** and their son Boris got deported from Kuldiga to USSR where the parents of B.G. deceased, allegedly in Siberia.

A brother of B.G., **GRANOVSKIS Valdis**, born around 1920 (six years younger than B.G.) is now serving with some Latvian unit at the British Armed Forces in West Germany; his present address: Bialafeld (or Bilefeld ?), Oldentruperstr.58.

B.G. graduated from the gymnasium (Latvian) in Kuldiga where he was a schoolmate of P.J. - the latter, being younger than B.G., graduated from it one or two years later. Afterward B.G. studied pharmacology at the Univ. of Latvia in Riga and was member of some Latvian student fraternity, presumably "Latgallia" (was member of the same fraternity as the well known Latvian pharmacist, **FRONCKEVICS**). During his studies B.G. was practicing at several pharmacies, f.i. at the pharmacy of **KRESLIJS** (now in USA, supposedly N.Y.C. - Fr.) and that of **BLUMBERGS** on Kalpa Street in Riga (**BLUMBERGS** is residing now in West Germany where he owns a pharmacy and a chemical plant), also in Kuldiga. During his compulsory military service B.G. was with the Latvian Navy.

B.G. returned to Latvia from Siberia at the beginning of 1955 - was released because was very ill with TB - had underwent a surgery already while in Russia; was operated also in Riga after his return. While in exile in Russia, B.G. got married to an Estonian woman, had also one child. However, when B.G. became ill and unable to work, this woman left him. After his return to Latvia B.G. met an old acquaintance from Kuldiga, **ZEMITE Irma** (the latter's, **Dagnara** had been B.G.'s classmate at the a/m gymnasium), who took care of him and both got married. Irma **ZEMITE** is apr. 40 years old and working as a nurse at some TB sanatorium in Pardaugava, Riga, presumably on Altonavas Street there (the Institute of Experimental Medicine is located on this street now - Fr.). The **GRANOVSKIS** are living at the a/m address in Asari in the small house of Irma's mother, still owned by the latter. It consists of two rooms, kitchen and closed porch (veranda - in Ltv.); during the season they have tenants in one room (mother of P.J. has often visited them there). As an invalid B.G. is receiving the minimal pension which is below 300 rubles; due to this small income he has often arguments with his mother i.l. who considers him a bad party of her daughter. This mother i.l. is apr. 80 years old. In the same house is living also the daughter of Irma from her first marriage, who is apr. 15 years old (first husband of Irma is deceased). Irma is earning as a nurse apr. 600 rubles monthly. Mother of Irma is divorced - her former husband is living somewhere in Pleskodale (a suburb in Pardaugava, Riga) where he has a small-scale gardening; now and then B.G. is going there as an auxiliary worker. - The a/m cousin of Irma, **Dagnara**, lmu, is working at the telegraph office in Riga (P.J. knows her) but the sister of **Dagnara**, Mrs. **MATSONS Livija** is residing in America now (either USA or Canada); husband of **Livija**, **MATSONS** fm, formerly was a lawyer in Liepaja.

Judging by the letters of B.G., the latter has few acquaintances in Riga's Journals and Riga but several still living in Kuldiga or its vicinity. Among the letters there is one **LACIS Edgars** (very well known by P.J., too), who formerly was employed at the radio transmitting station of Kuldiga, i.e. during free Latvia; now he is back in the same job at this station. Besides, **LACIS Edgars** is now married to the widow of P.J.'s deceased brother Janis.

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B.G. is now appr. 176 cm tall (shrunk due to his TB; was taller formerly); blond hair but bald on the top; blue-grey eyes; oval face; unobscured appearance; many teeth lacking (B.G. has sent all his measures to P.J. because of the parcels the latter is sending; P.J. is also in possession of the photos of B.G. and the other three persons - see above - residing at the same address).

P.J. recalls B.G. as a witty, likeable person who was very vital and a great optimist; even now B.G. has stated in his letters that he is still an optimist. His answers to P.J. letters show that B.G. is still quite smart and understands to express sensitive matters in a cautious manner. P.J. recalls him as a man of principles; during free Latvia B.G. politically was on the extreme right wing and P.J. believes that the attitude of B.G. has not changed in this aspect - at least B.G.'s letters do not show such change though are somewhat pessimistic as to the attitude of their former friends.

The first news about B.G.'s return to Latvia was received by P.J. from his mother in Riga - she wrote that B.G. had visited her at her address in Riga, trying to locate P.J., but - since she had not been at home at that time - left without leaving his present address for her. To this P.J. wrote his mother that she should find out the address of B.G. at the Address Office (adrešu galds - in Ltv.) in Riga; it was done and P.J.'s mother got B.G.'s address there, went to Asari and gave P.J.'s address in Sweden to B.G. The latter did not write at first to P.J. direct but attached his short writings to the letters of P.J. mother.

In the spring of 1956 B.G. started to send his letters directly to P.J. - not to the latter's name and address but to P.JANSONS, c/o Latvian Relief Committee in Stockholm, Sweden (Latviesu Palīdzības Komiteja - in Ltv.), its postbox. P.J. answered either as P.JANSONS or J.PANIS, using the address of the a/m committee. At that time P.J. started also to send parcels to B.G., containing mainly medicine for B.G., his TB. Nov P.J. asked also B.G. about the fate of P.J.'s "schoolmates of the last school", implying his interest about the former Latvian officers. To this question B.G. replied only about one such person: SALNA (formerly SAMOVICS; the SAMOVICS were a half-Polish family who owned a drugstore in Kuldiga during free Latvia) Nikolajs, who had been P.J.'s classmate at the Latvian Officers Training School in Riga and missing since 1941 (possibly deported to USSR as an officer). B.G. wrote that SALNA Nikolajs has become arrogant now and P.J. would have nothing in common with N.S. now (P.J. thinks that this answer indicates that N.S. is working for the Soviets now).

Having established this contact by letters, P.J. nevertheless was not satisfied since he saw that only limited topics might be discussed in this manner. Therefore P.J. tried to find some way how to write to B.G. directly, i.e. bypassing the Soviet censorship of letters from and to abroad. Through P.J.'s friend in Goeteborg, EISENBERGS A (Aleksandrs ?; called by the nickname "Edgars" by P.J.), P.J. got news about some Swedish seaman SVENSON, f.m., who is an officer (steersman) aboard one of the vessels of ERORSTROM TENDER SERVICE, S/S Beta (this company has five or six smaller vessels which are sailing between Sweden and the ports of the Baltic Sea - Alfa, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Froste); it was known that this vessel sometimes arrives in the harbor of Riga and Ventspils. After A.EISENBERGS had become more acquainted with SVENSON and had established that the latter is very friendly toward the Baltic people in Sweden as well as hates the Soviets, P.J. wrote a letter for B.G. which A.E. passed to SVENSON under the pretext that it has to be mailed in Latvia to the parents of A.E. (who really are living still in Latvia) in order to avoid the Soviet censorship. SVENSON accepted this request and had done his job efficient since P.J.'s mother, when arriving in Sweden, knew already that B.G. had received this letter very soon and without any trouble. Said letter, as a try-out, consisted only of general phrases.

In the meantime, i.e. not knowing how the channel via SVENSON is going to work out, P.J. searched for other possibilities to make his correspondence with B.G. more efficient. From his close friend, LIEPIES Pauls, in Stockholm (working as a ship construction engineer at some Swedish company) P.J. got the info that one Latvian from Soviet Latvia, BRAKIS (or BRAKIS; first name presumably Pauls), is going soon to return to Latvia aboard a vessel which was built in Sweden. Incidentally, P.LIEPIES got this info due to the indiscretion of FREDMANIS Imants who already had used BRAKIS for such transactions of letters to and from Latvia before (FREDMANIS Imants is working as an engineer at some company in Stockholm; has allegedly attended the Baltic University in Pilsen, Germany, after WW II; is known as a rather talkative and very ambitious person; P.J. does not trust him because of I.P.'s exaggerated activities).

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Since the general opinion of the Latvians in Sweden was that BRAKSIS is a honest man and not affiliated with the Communists, P.J. wanted to take the chance and use him as a courier for one special letter to B.G. Before doing it, P.J. summoned A.EIZENBERGS to Stockholm and got more info about BRAKSIS - A.E. had already several times had the opportunity to talk with BRAKSIS in private in Goeteborg while the latter was staying there and supervising the construction of the small vessels built on Soviet orders. A.E. had a favorable impression of BRAKSIS; he knew also that the noted Latvian physician in Goeteborg, Dr. MAJORS, had already several times used BRAKSIS as a courier in sending letters (and/or receiving) to Dr. M. relatives in Latvia, without causing any troubles for the latter. Together with A.EIZENBERGS and P.LIEPIES P.J. decided to make use of BRAKSIS (this meeting took place on 1 Dec. '56). Since P.L. did not know BRAKSIS personally, it was agreed that next day P.L. will approach him at the shipyard (where both were working) and ask B whether the latter would like to meet A.E. from Goeteborg. B agreed and met A.E. in private in some cafe in Stockholm (P.J. was observing this meeting outside of it; tried to take some snapshots of B but did not succeed since it was already too dark and P.J. wanted to remain unseen by B). During this meeting A.E. had a lengthy talk with B in order once more to make sure that B is a trustworthy person, not a Soviet agent (besides, B had mentioned during this or some previous meeting that he knows that it might be his last visit to Sweden, i.e. that the Soviets won't let him out again). Then A.E. asked B whether the latter would agree to take with him a letter to Riga for A.E.'s parents in Latvia. When B agreed, A.E. told him that he is going to write it and send it later from Goeteborg to P.LIEPIES who will give it to B before the latter departs for Riga. During the next days P.J. and P.LIEPIES (who, besides, was trained in communications while serving with the Latvian Legion during WW 2) took great pains to work out an efficient system for clandestine text in letters which should be easy understandable to B.G. and could be explained in secure way to him via the letter sent by B when back in Riga. They discarded several more complicated systems and decided for a very simple one:

of the letter

the secret text of the message has to be written among the overt text in such a manner that the latter gives no indication about it, i.e. it has to be dispersed as much as possible and covered by otherwise innocent and coherent overt text. It is achieved by applying the method of "schablon", i.e. in this case an ordinary piece of paper (sheet of a notice book) which has holes at one side. The letter is written on a sheet of the same size as usual but before doing it the secret text is written down from left to right, line after line downward, in the precise spots indicated by the four holes, i.e. four letters of the secret text in ^{the} ~~the~~ line, the following letters in the second line and so forth until the full text of the clandestine message, in telegram style, is finished. For example: a message, consisting of 17 letters, will be dispersed on five first lines, i.e. four letters on the first four lines, one letter on the fifth line. When this is done, the open, innocent text has to be written very carefully in such order that it includes the pre-written letters of the secret message and at the same time does not lose its coherence (P.J. told that his first letter of the "schablon" took six hours; later he was able to write it in two hours). The receiver of such letter has to have the same piece of paper, i.e. of the same size and with the holes at exactly the same spots; when receiving a letter, he covers it by the "schablon" and reads the secret text through its holes (four in this case) line by line, applying it from the first line downward until the full text of the message ends (possibly the secret text does not start on the first line of the letter but somewhere in the middle of the letter - this point was overlooked when P.J. was questioned - Fr.).

When the ~~indicated system~~ a/m system was worked out, P.J. prepared an explanatory letter for B.G., which contained in guarded words the principle of it - P.J. wrote that in the future B.G. is going to receive letters from P.J. which the mother i.l. of B.G. would not be able to understand (" she won't be able to put her nose in our matters "); somewhere else in this letter P.J. mentioned as by-the-way that B.G. should "look in the holes". In any case P.J. tried to give B.G. only a vague idea what has to be done, hoping that B.G. will find out the system when receiving the following letters which without the "schablon" won't be understandable and coherent, contrary to P.J.'s previously written letters.

Meanwhile P.LIEPIES had made arrangements with a/m I. FREEMANIS for a meeting with BRAKSIS shortly before the latter's departure to Latvia. After some days I.F. notified P.LIEPIES that the latter should come to I.F.'s apartment in Selma - BRAKSIS, too,

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would be there. Since P.L. had thought that only they three will meet there, he was unpleasantly surprised that three more persons were present at this farewell party: KROKERS Arturs, KALNINS Augusts (called Kurpniek-Kalnins) - both well-known personalities among the Latvians in Stockholm - and one JANSONS, sm. Rather heavy drinking took place though P.L. observed that BRAKSIS, because of big body and reserved attitude, did not become as intoxicated as the others. During this party P.L. gave the letter, prepared by P.J., to BRAKSIS. The latter was instructed (either by P.L. at this party or previously by A.EIZENBERGS) to mail it in Riga to the address of VANAGA Ada - Riga, Laplace Street 75, Apt.16 (for more info about her see further) but - if possible - to bring it over to her personally); BRAKSIS told that he would not deliver it to A.VANAGA himself but would ask his wife after some time to do it since he assumed that he might be under surveillance for some time after his return to Latvia. Besides, this letter contained also a note by P.J. to A.VANAGA that the letter has to be delivered to the mom at the seashore (jūrmalas - in original, Ltv) since P.J. does not know the latter's address. It should be noted that a/m I.FREIDMANIS did not know anything about the whole plan of P.J. - all he knew was that A.EIZENBERGS wants to send a letter via BRAKSIS to the parents of A.E. in Latvia.

After a couple days BRAKSIS went aboard the newly built vessel to Latvia. It took a rather long time before a message arrived from BRAKSIS that all letters he had taken with him have been delivered to the respective persons in Latvia.

Later it came out that a/m A.VANAGA does not know the address of B.G. though she had met him several times when both were visiting P.J.'s mother in Riga (how she finally got it and met B.G. was not established during the questioning - Fr.).

After the arrival of P.J.'s mother in Sweden, presumably sometime in January, 1957 (all the dates are registered and kept by P.J. in Stockholm; he could not recall them exactly now), P.J. sent to B.G. the "schablon" itself, i.e. the exact copy of the a/m piece of paper with the four holes, taken out of the same pad. In order to make it appear completely innocent, P.J. wrote a prescription on it as if necessary for B.G.'s illness; below of it P.J. wrote a short remark for A.VANAGA that she should try to get the medicine mentioned above and deliver it to his friend, i.e. B.G. since P.J. does not know the latter's exact address. This letter was sent via the regular mail to the a/m address of A.VANAGA.

After having sent these two letters to B.G., P.J. sent two more letters to him, which contained nothing especial, and then wrote the first letter to B.G. by using the "schablon". In this letter P.J. asked B.G.:

- a/ to gather and send to P.J., by using this code, military info about the Soviets in Latvia;
- b/ to reply to P.J. whether it would be possible for B.G. or some of the latter's acquaintances to use an illegal radio transmitter for the future contacts between Latvia and Sweden.

Further P.J. promised that B.G. would get support for the a/m activities from abroad. Since B.G.'s replies to P.J. showed that he has not understood the method of the "schablon", P.J. tried in the following letters - sent either via a/m A.VANAGA or directly to B.G. - to describe in very cautious words that something special has now to be done by B.G. with the letters from P.J. - the latter wrote, f.i. about the ornaments of the Latvian ethnography, about his dreams of some key holes, hoping that it would sound so incoherent that B.G. would try to find out the method.

Apr. at the beginning of February P.J. wrote the second letter by the "schablon", asking this time to find out the address and present status of AUSEKLIS Feliks (former faculty member of P.J. at the Officers Training School). To this B.G. replied that Feliks (AUSEKLIS) has committed suicide already in 1941. This showed that B.G. at last has understood the method of the "schablon" though had mixed up a/m P.AUSEKLIS with some other person. However, P.J. was still in doubt since the first name Feliks was also in the open text of this second letter - it was possible therefore that B.G. might still be in dark as to the right method.

Therefore P.J. decided to send via the a/m SVENSON another direct letter to B.G., i.e. bypassing the Soviet censorship of foreign letters. Through A.EIZENBERGS in Goeteborg SVENSON got from P.J. a letter which had to be mailed from Riga (under the same pretext, i.e. as going to the parents of A.E.). It was a short one which explained quite clearly to B.G. how the latter should use the "schablon": if B.G. does not understand some of P.J.'s letters, he should put it under the prescription (Excepts - in Ltv.); if B.G. is not able to make use of the prescription himself, he should hand it over to some other person (meant a/m AUSEKLIS). This letter was

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given to SVENSON at the end of February when SVENSON went to another sail in the Baltic Sea and presumably would go to Riga, too (it is not clear in this case as well as in the first case with SVENSON whether these letters were addressed to B.G. directly or went through some third person, f.i. A.VANAGA - Fr.Ø. - Up to now there is no news from SVENSON whether he has accomplished his second task; since now it is clear that B.G. fully understands the method of the "schablon", P.J. intends to request via A.KIZENBERGS to have the a/m letter back from SVENSON if not already mailed in Riga - P.J. considers that this letter was possibly to frankly written and could reveal the whole method to the enemy.

Some time later P.J. wrote another coded letter to B.G., asking this time about P.J.'s old friend and officer of the Latvian Legion, TRKLJS Hugo (see further), called Ugis. This time B.G.'s reply showed without doubt that he had understood the code - B.G. replied that Ugis does not live in Agenskalns (a suburb in Pardsaugave, Riga) anymore; B.G. remarked also that P.J. might expect direct letters from a/m Ugis and Feliks (AUSKELIS) - but up to now P.J. has received no letters from these two former officers.

After some time P.J. asked again B.G. to contact a/m AUSKELIS (this time or at some other opportunity HAINERS Vilis, who was informed by P.J. about this correspondence, sent two lines to AUSKELIS, his former colleague: " Don't lose the guts, old pal. - Cobra " - in Ltv.: "Turies, vecais draugs. Brillndiska (V.H.'s nickname)"); this request was coded. - B.G. replied in open text (B.G. has never used the "schablon" in writing his letters) that he understands all and that P.J. should not be angry if B.G. does not answer as P.J. expects - he should keep in mind that the old friends (of P.J. in Latvia, presumably the former officers) do not live from memories and are too lazy to write letters; that much time has passed and people have changed - they live and think different (as previously in free Latvia).

Since B.G. had several times used his true name and address when sending letters to P.J., the latter had suggested in his second letter via a/m SVENSON to stop this practice and use assumed name and address. Since afterward P.J. has received from B.G. letters still having the latter's true name and address on the envelope, P.J. assumes that this second letter via SVENSON has not yet reached B.G.

Another person, whom P.J. tried to locate through B.G., is a former girl friend of P.J.'s wife, ASRIACS Margrieta, called Margarita (see further). Judging by B.G.'s reply, it was somewhat difficult for B.G. to locate her, probably because M.A. now is married and has another last name. However, B.G. replied after some time that he has found out her address, that she lives in Rigas Jarmala and is going to write directly to the wife of P.J. (up to now no letter has been received from her).

As this correspondence stands now, P.J. thinks that it should not be made more efficient but should continue until B.G. has established a new contact between P.J. and some other officer in Latvia (either AUSKELIS, Hugo TRKLJS or Lt.Col. VEINBERGS - for the latter see report on the case of OSOLIJA) who is more qualified and able than B.G. The latter apparently is too ill and without any qualifications for the gathering of military info - should serve only as a go-between up to the moment when a new contact is established.

It should be noted also that up to now B.G. has not answered to P.J.'s question in the first coded letter about a possible W/T contact.

Additional info about some a/m persons:

BRANKIS (or BRANKS; first name probably Pauls) - has visited Sweden from Latvia several times as a ship construction expert who was assigned by the Soviets to supervise the construction of fishing vessels in Sweden. Has spent most of his time in Goeteborg, where he became acquainted with Dr. MAJORS (Janis ?) and has delivered letters from and to the latter and his relatives in Latvia; until now nothing has happened to these relatives (presumably a brother of Dr. MAJORS) in Latvia. According to B's statements, he is married and his wife supposedly is studying in Riga; they have no children. Has had several times private talks with a/m A.KIZENBERGS while in Goeteborg - the latter, who is known as a very cautious and security minded person, has found nothing which would indicate that B is a Soviet agent. While in Stockholm B has become closely affiliated with a/m I.FREMANIS and

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the associates of KRODERS Arturs (P.J. describes the latter as an outstanding example of the destructive forces of the Latvian emigration - at the least). According to I.FREIDMANIS, this group is in contact with a person in Latvia with the help of BRAKIS. This person has been ordered by this group via BRAKIS to gather as much as possible info about the present political and economical conditions in Soviet Latvia and, after having done it, to escape illegally to Sweden. This contact has been established some time ago. Recently, i.e. in the spring of 1957, BRAKIS had sent a message (from Latvia ?) that some of his acquaintances, an Estonian would go as a member of some delegation to Great Britain; it was agreed that I.FREIDMANIS should meet this Estonian in Hamburg (at that time I.FREIDMANIS went to Hamburg under the pretext as participating at the annual meeting of his student fraternity, "Fraternitas Iuventus"). However, at said date this Estonian did not arrive in Hamburg.

Before going to Hamburg, I.FREIDMANIS had told (P.LIEPIJS or P.J. ?) that he needs 2000 S.Br. (or DM ?) for his contact in Latvia so that the latter could prepare his flight to Sweden; this amount should be handed over to the a/m Estonian in Hamburg who would deliver it to the person in Latvia. I.FREIDMANIS was advised (by P.L. or P.J.) to write in this matter to HAZNERS Vilis in N.Y.C. as the person who might be helpful and interested in it. Since P.J. knows from V.HAZNERS that I.FREIDMANIS has not written to him, P.J. thinks that the group of A.KRODERS do not like V.HAZNERS for political reasons and want to work on their project separately.

In any case P.J. stresses that this group does not know anything about P.J.'s contact with B.G.; in fact they even don't know that P.J. has sent a letter via BRAKIS since it was handed over by P.LIEPIJS and the agreement was made between BRAKIS and A.KIZENBERGS.

VANAGA Ada - born 1906; previously her last name was SANCHEGOS - changed it to VANAGS (the SANCHEGOS were a well-known family in Vecpiebalga; one SANCHEGOS was either a physician or the pastor in Vecpiebalga in old times, known for his student songs); single; she is the daughter of the sister of Latvian Consul General, A.VANAG, in Norway - the latter, too, is from Vecpiebalga. She is a graduate of the English Institute in Riga; presumably has also attended the Univ. of Latvia. Since the second Soviet occupation of Latvia, possibly already before it, she is working at the secretariat (kancleja - in Litv.) of the State Univ. of Latvia on Raiņa Boulevard; has stated to the mother of P.J. - both were well acquainted - that there exists a very special spirit, i.e. non-communistic, among all the employees there. She has a brother, who is living in Lielvarde. This brother is an architect but ailing and therefore living on his pension; however, he now and then works black for some folkhouses, i.e. their planning of constructions, thus making a relatively very good living. The house he is living in, formerly belonged to his parents; since it is a one-family house, it is still his property; is married and has a family.

THELIS Hugo - former officer of the Latvian Legion and the first husband of KUNDZIJS Mira (daughter of the noted architect, Prof. KUNDZIJS Pauls - now in Canada; the latter, they got remarried a couple years ago in Sweden (to ZALCMANIS Janis). Formerly he was living in Agenskalns, Pardaugava, but now - according to B.G. - is living in or near Kandava in Kurzeme and is remarried, too.

ASRIANCS Margrieta - born apr. 1922 (was class-mate of P.J.'s wife); her father was an Armenian but mother a Latvian, nee OZOLS; had a brother Augusts. The children both were very patriotic as it happens in such mixed families. P.J.'s wife characterizes M.A. as very honest and helpful person who can be trusted in even the most sensitive matters and who would never have betrayed her patriotic attitude. She was studying medicine, after having graduated from the 1st State Gymnasium in Riga (principal, V. IESNIEKS - now in Sweden); probably working now as a physician. Her brother Augusts graduated from the 1st Municipal Gymnasium in Riga around 1939/40; studied medicine, too, and was physician with the 19th Division of the Latvian Legion during WW II. (possibly identical with one Dr. SALIUTE Margarita, physician at the Riga Latvian Hospital in Sloka; mentioned by Giga in Jan. (?) , 1957 - Fr.).

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